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Applicant:

Peter A. Balkus et al.

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The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Technology Center 2100, facsimile number 703-872-9306, on

Monday, February 14, 2005.

Peter J. Gordon, Reg. No. 35,164

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## REPLY

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action of August 13, 2004, the Applicant submits this Reply.

Applicant hereby petitions for a three-month extension of time to submit this Reply. Please charge the extension fee of \$1020.00 to Deposit Account No. 50-0876.

A Request for Continued Examination accompanies this Reply.

Remarks begin on page 2, of which the Conclusion is on page 5.